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Officers opted for the Kerala State

* 139-C *Q.*—Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many (1) Indian Administrative Service Officers, (2) Indian Police Service Officers, and (3) Judicial Officers, in the Madras State have opted for Kerala State Services; and

(*b*) whether the Government have given any assurance that those officers who opted for Kerala would be sent to that State without detriment to their service conditions?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) This does not arise as no right of option has been conceded to officers in their allocation.

(*b*) The conditions of service of officers allotted to Kerala State consequent on the re-organization of the States will be subject to the provisions contained in the States Re-organization Bill and also by the general policy that may be laid down by the Government of India. The attention of the hon. Member is invited in this connexion to the proviso to sub-clause (7) of clause 116 of the Draft States Re-organization Bill. The question of giving a separate assurance by this Government in such cases does not therefore arise.

Retrenched workers of Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke

* 139-D *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state— 10 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Government have received any petition in January 1955 from 8 retrenched workers of the Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke, regarding the grant of retrenchment benefits to them ; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) Action will be taken after the writ petitions filed in the High Court by the management of Commonwealth Trust, Limited, against orders of recovery issued by Government in two similar cases are disposed.

Hydrogenation factory at Kozhikode

* 139-E *Q.*—Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have issued orders recently for dismantling the hydrogenation plant from the Government Hydrogenation factory at Kozhikode?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir.

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SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : This kind of allegation has been made about various other things also. May I, in the interests of concord and fraternal feelings between the Tamilians and the Malayalees, request the Government to issue an extensive statement explaining the correct position so that the atmosphere may not be vitiated by noxious whims?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not think any statement is necessary. I also don't believe that any statement could convince those who put this kind of absolutely baseless questions.

Madras State Highways Mechanical and Transport Workers' Union, Tiruchirappalli

* 139-F Q.—SRI S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Dr. G. Chitrambalam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a copy of the Memorandum of demands submitted by the Madras State Highways Mechanical and Transport Workers' Union, Tiruchirappalli, on 9th May 1956 ; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The remarks of the Chief Engineer (Highways) have been called for.

* 139-G Q.—SRI S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Dr. G. Chitrambalam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether any deputation representing the Madras State Highways and Transport workers met the Hon. Minister for Public Works on 2nd February 1956 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Hon. Minister gave an assurance to the deputation, that the wages and service conditions of the workers would be improved; and

(c) if so, how far these assurances have been carried out?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (a) The Tiruchirappalli District Highways Mechanical and Transport Workers' Union representatives met the Minister for Works on 2nd February 1956.

(b) No such assurances was given, but the representatives were informed that the question would be examined in consultation with the Chief Engineer (Highways).

(c) Does not arise in view of the answers above.